

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

1           19. (Currently Amended) Use of [the] a recombinant DNA molecule [according to claim  
2 6] comprising a promintron sequence of the rolA gene from *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* as in SEQ  
3 ID NO. 1, or of DNA sequences comprising said promintron sequence, or of functional  
4 homologous or portion thereof, to induce the expression of a DNA coding sequence, in  
5 recombinant bacteria during exponential, post-exponential and stationary phase of growth, and in  
6 bacteroids within root nodules, said coding DNA sequence being under the control of said  
7 promintron sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being covalently linked to the 3' end of  
8 said promintron sequence, a DNA coding sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being either  
9 harboured by prokaryotic episomal elements, or integrated in a bacterial genome to significantly  
10 increase the plant biomass production.

1           20. (Original) Use of the recombinant DNA molecule according to claim 19 wherein said  
2 statistically significant increase of the plant biomass production is of at least 10%.

21. (Cancelled)

1           22. (New) Use of a recombinant DNA molecule comprising a promintron sequence of the  
2 rolA gene from *Agrobacterium rhizogenes* as in SEQ ID NO. 1, or of a DNA coding sequence, or  
3 functional homologous or portion thereof, and covalently linked to the 3' end of said promintron  
4 sequence, a DNA coding sequence, said recombinant DNA molecule being either harboured by  
5 prokaryotic episomal elements, or integrated in a bacterial genome to significantly increase the

6 plant biomass production.